

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCCT-02

SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 109908

O R 211603Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8567

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7083

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PMIL, IS, LE

SUBJECT: ATMOSPHERE IN WAKE OF ISRAELI AIR RAIDS

REF: BEIRUT 7015 (NOTAL)

1. JUNE 20 IAF STRIKES AGAINST LEBANON (BEIRUT 6941) HAVE
PROVOKED OUTSPOKEN FEDAYEEN REACTION AND HEIGHTENED LEBANESE
CONCERN OVER FURTHER ATTACKS ON POPULATED AREAS. BEIRUT PRESS
HAS INTENSIFIED PUBLIC ANXIETY BY PLAYING UP CAUSALTY FACTOR,
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CLAIMING WELL OVER 100 PERSONS--MAINLY WOMEN, CHILDREN AND

AGED--WERE KILLED AND WOUNDED JUNE 20. EDITORIAL REACTION
FOLLOWS IN SEPTEL.

2. OFFICIAL CASUALTY COUNT STILL INCOMPLETE AND AWAITING FIGURES
FROM MIYYEH-MIYYEH. CURRENT TALLY OF LEBANESE ARMY IS 20
KILLED AND 88 WOUNDED (7 KILLED AND 40 INJURED--MANY SERIOUSLY--
AT 'AIN AL HILWEH, 5 KILLED AND 19 INJURED AT RASHIDIYYEH, 8 KILLED
AND 29 INJURED AT BURJ ASH SHEMALI) WHILE MAJORITY OF CASUALTIES
BELIEVED CIVILAIN, NO RPT NO OFFICIAL BREAKDOWN AS YET AVAILABLE
RE AGE, SEX OR EXTNET LEBANESE VICTIMS VIS-A-VIS
PALESTINIANS.

3. PRESS REPORTS ALSO ALLEGE IAF USED "SMART" AND PHOSPHOURS
BOMBS. LEBANESE ARMY SOURCES UNABLE TO VERIFY AS YET BUT DID
CONFIRM PRESS REPORT THAT FEDAYEEN USED SAM-7S FOR FIRST TIME.
DATT RELIABLY INFORMED THAT 2 SAM-7S WERE FIRED FROM HILLS NEAR
MIYYEH-MIYYEH AND EXPLODED WELL BELOW ISRAELI PLANES. WHILE
OTHER MAY HAVE BEEN FIRED ELSEWHERE, LEBANESE MILITARY DENY
PRESS CLAIMS THAT 2 ISRAELI AIRCRAFT SHOT DOEN OFF SIDON.

4. LOCAL JITTERS INTENSIFIED BY DEFIANT PALESTINIAN REACTION.
AFTER MEETING WITH PRIMIN SOLH, 'ARAFAT SENT APPEAL TO ARAB
GOVTS FOR IMMEDIATE AID IN FORIFING REFUGEE CAMPS. IN PRESS
CONFERENCE (SEE FBIS KYRENIA P202112Z JUN 74), ZUHAIR
MOHSEN OF SAIQA INDICATED FEDAYEEN PLANNED COMPREHENSIVE CAMP
DEFENSE NETWORK RANGING FORM ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS TO CONSTRUCTION
OF SHELTERS. MOHSEN ALSO SAID THAT FEDAYEEN WOULD INCREASE
OPERATIONS IN ISRAEL (ASSERTING "RIGHT" HENCEFORTH TO ATTACK
KIBBUTZIM AT ANY TIME AND AT ANY PLACE) AND THAT FEDAYEEN LEADERS
WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER PRESENT POLICY OF FOREGOING OPERATIONS
FORM LEBANON AND SYRIA.

5. AS RESULT PAST THREE DAYS OF IAF RAIDS AND OF PALESTINIAN
HARD-LINE DEFIANCE, LEBANECE FULLY EXPECT FUTHER ISRAEL ATTACKS.
ACCORDING TO SOURCES CLOSE TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE, HE--AS WELL AS
LEBANESE MILITARY--EXPECTS CAMP NEAR TRIPOLI MAY BE NEXT
TARGET. FEDAYEEN AND LEBANESE MAN-ON-THE-STREET, HOWEVER,
ANTICIPATE BOMBING RAIDS IN AND AROUND CAMPS AT BEIRUT.
PALESTINIANS, ON FULL ALERT, HAVE INITIATED HIGHLY VISIBLE ARMED
PATROLS AROUND LOCAL CAMPS. DATT HAS OBSERVED FEDAYEEN JEEPS
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WITH 12.7MM AS WELL AS 12.7MM MG'S AND ONB TWIN 20MM
WEAPONS IN AIR DEFENSE ROLE VICINITY SABRA AND BURJ
BARAJNEH CAMPS.

6. COMMENT: LEBANESE PUBLIC EXPECTED ISRAELI RE-
TALIATION BUT NOT POUNDING WHICH ISRAELIS INFLICTED
HERE OVER THREE DAY PERIOD. IT IS EXTENT OF RETALIATION
WHICH HAS ANGERED PUBLIC AND HEIGHTENED TENSIONS. USG

STATEMENTS DEPLORING ATTACKS HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN
COUNTERING CHARGES WE HAVE GIVEN ISRAELIS "GREEN LIGHT"
FOR SUCH RETALIATORY ATTACKS AND THUS SHARE IN RESPONSIBILITY.
GODLEY

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